

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A time recorder adapted to be used for printing on a time card having card identification information, said time recorder comprising:

a card identification unit for identifying the card identification information;

a printing unit for printing clock in/out information on the time card;

a recording unit for recording the card identification information and the clock in/out information; and

a control unit;

wherein where the time card is inserted, the control unit makes inquiries of the card identification information transmitted from the card identification unit and of the card identification information recorded in the recording unit;

wherein where the inquired identification information is recorded in the recording unit, the control unit detects immediately previously recorded clock in/out information relative to the card identification information;

wherein where the immediately previously recorded clock in/out information is clock-in information, the control unit instructs the printing unit to print clock-out information on the same print line as the clock-in information on the time card;

wherein where the immediately previously recorded clock

in/out information is clock-out information, the control unit instructs the printing unit to print clock-in information on a line next to the line on which the clock-out information has been printed on the time card;

wherein where the clock-out information has been printed on a final print line of the time card, the control unit shifts to a takeover mode; and

wherein where the time card is ejected and then an unused time card is inserted, the control unit updates clock in/out information, which is on the ejected time card and recorded in the recording unit, as clock in/out information relative to the card identification information on the unused time card.

2. The time recorder of claim 1, wherein said control unit updates the clock in/out information, which is on the ejected time card and recorded in the recording unit, as clock in/out information relative to the card identification information on an unused time card where the unused time card is inserted within a given time after shifting to the takeover mode.

3. The time recorder of claim 1, wherein there is further provided a manual card identification information input unit, and wherein where card identification information on the time card is entered by the input unit after said clock-out information is printed on the final line of the time card and the card is ejected, the control unit extracts clock in/out information

recorded relative to the card identification information from the recording unit and where an unused time card is inserted, the control unit updates the extracted clock in/out information as clock in/out information relative to the card identification information on the unused time card.

4. The time recorder of claim 1, wherein there is further provided a manual takeover mode switching unit, and wherein where (i) said clock-out information is printed on the final print line of the time card, (ii) the card is ejected, then (iii) a takeover operation is performed by the takeover mode switching unit, and (iv) the ejected time card is inserted, the control unit extracts the clock in/out information recorded relative to the card identification information on the time card from the recording unit and where an unused time card is inserted, the control unit updates the extracted clock in/out information as clock in/out information relative to the card identification information on the unused time card.

5. The time recorder of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein there is further provided a warning unit, and wherein where said clock-out information is printed on the final print line of the time card, the control unit instructs the warning unit to operate.

6. The time recorder of claim 5, wherein where the time card having card identification information already recorded in the recording unit is inserted instead of said unused time

card, the control unit instructs the warning unit to operate without updating the clock in/out information.

7. A time recorder adapted to be used for printing on a time card having card identification information, said time recorder comprising:

- a card identification unit for identifying the card identification information;

- a printing unit for printing clock in/out information on the time card;

- a recording unit for recording the card identification information and the clock in/out information; and

- a control unit;

wherein where the time card is inserted, the control unit makes inquiries of the card identification information transmitted from the card identification unit and of the card identification information recorded in the recording unit;

wherein where the inquired card identification information is recorded in the recording unit, the control unit detects immediately previously recorded clock in/out information relative to the card identification information;

wherein where the immediately previously recorded clock in/out information is clock-in information, the control unit instructs the printing unit to print clock-out information on the same print line as the clock-in information on the time card;

wherein where the immediately previously recorded clock in/out information is clock-out information, the control unit instructs the printing unit to print clock-in information on a line next to the print line on which the clock-out information has been printed on the time card;

wherein where the time card on which the clock-out information has been printed on its final print line is inserted, the control unit shifts to a takeover mode; and

wherein where the time card is ejected and then an unused time card is inserted, the control unit updates clock in/out information, which is on the ejected time card and recorded in the recording unit, as clock in/out information relative to the card identification information on the unused time card.